

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 23-26 would be allowable if they are amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claim 9, from which claim 23 directly depends, to recite the limitations contained in claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9 is allowable. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 10-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 31 are now allowable as claims 10-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 31 depend on now allowable independent claim 9. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

In the alternative, Applicants' request that the Amendments presented herein be entered, as the Amendments at least place the case in better position for appeal, in part, by eliminating rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that

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applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition
for extension of time.

If any additional fees apply, please charge our Deposit
Account No. 10-0440.

Respectfully submitted,

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